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**Testimony Before  
Subcommittee on Management, Finance and Accountability  
of the Committee on Government Reform  
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***Homeland Security Preparedness in New York City***

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Chairman Platts, Congressman Towns, Members of the subcommittee. Good morning.

Defending the financial capital of the world from a terrorist attack is the number one priority of the New York City Police Department. Accordingly, I would like to focus my remarks today on the preventive measures the Department is taking against this threat.

As you know, one of the stated aims of Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda is to target America's economy. Shortly after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Bin Laden himself exulted in the massive blow suffered by the U.S. economy, offering in an interview his own estimation of over \$1 trillion in losses. We have no doubt he seeks to replicate that strike.

Since then, we learned of another plan to target financial institutions in New York. This, after authorities discovered detailed surveillance of the Stock Exchange and the Citigroup Center in the laptop computer of an Al Qaeda operative captured in Pakistan last year.

This followed two additional Al Qaeda plots to target the city in 2003: the first to bring down the Brooklyn Bridge, and the second to smuggle weapons through a garment district business into the heart of Manhattan.

These plots were foiled by increased police visibility and good intelligence sharing. I cite them as evidence that New York City remains squarely in the crosshairs. Consequently, nowhere else is the effort to prevent another attack being undertaken with greater urgency.

In addition to the dollar cost, this has required that we divert a thousand police officers to counter terrorism duties every day, and engage in extensive training and preparation. We have also undertaken a range of defensive measures to protect and harden the downtown financial district, and enlist the support of the private sector.

Beginning in January 2002, we created a new Bureau of Counter Terrorism and we restructured our Intelligence Division. We recruited outstanding individuals with extensive federal intelligence and counter-terrorism experience to run them. We expanded our presence on the Joint Terrorist Task Force with the FBI. And we posted detectives to 7 other countries to enhance the flow of information we receive about any threats relevant to New York City.

We established one of the premier counter-terrorism training centers in the nation right here in Brooklyn. In addition to our own corps of 37,000 police officers, we have delivered training through that center to members of the New York City Fire Department; the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department; the New York State Police; the Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Rockland County Police; and other agencies.

We have also brought in dozens of private security professionals from hotels, banks, and other institutions to train them in better ways to protect their facilities. Through our NEXUS program we are reaching out to businesses that terrorists might seek to exploit. We want businesses to report any unusual orders or anomalies that might suggest terrorist involvement. Detectives have paid thousands of visits to businesses throughout the city to increase their counter terrorism awareness.

In July, we launched a new initiative with the private security industry in New York called “NYPD Shield.” We are establishing a secure website with training materials and threat updates, and we have offered detailed briefings on topics such as the London bombings and the attack on the Egyptian resort of Sharm el Sheikh. We also exchange threat information daily with the city’s corporate and institutional security directors through an instant messaging system.

We have expanded the protection of critical infrastructure throughout the region. We have created the threat reduction and infrastructure protection program, or TRIPS. We

have divided critical infrastructure into 5 categories, and assigned a team of detectives to cover each one.

These investigators visit facilities throughout the city, identifying vulnerabilities and developing comprehensive protection plans with site managers to prevent attacks.

In 2003, at the beginning of the war in Iraq, we implemented a comprehensive security plan known as “Operation Atlas.” Given the ongoing terrorist threat, “Atlas” remains in effect today. Broadly speaking, Operation Atlas has tightened the protective net around the city by increasing vigilance at all entry points into New York, and by placing mass transit and other potential targets under much greater scrutiny.

Turning to the financial district itself:

Beginning in 2002, the Police Department engaged in extensive collaboration with the New York Stock Exchange and downtown business leaders to harden the financial district.

The area around the Exchange is the subject of a 24-hour police presence under Operation Atlas, which includes visits by our heavily-armed Hercules teams. We also established vehicle checkpoints at 7 major intersections leading into the Exchange. Each is monitored by Stock Exchange security officers trained by the NYPD. Each checkpoint is outfitted with Police Department-recommended equipment including Delta barriers and sallyports to deter truck bombs; explosives screening points; and bomb-resistant guard booths. Further protection is offered by dozens of retractable bollards and heavy planters that restrict pedestrian and vehicle flow.

I want to note that as lower Manhattan continues the recovery and rebuilding process, we plan to dedicate significant resources and personnel to keep pace with the growth of business. That includes the establishment of a coordination center where all relevant law

enforcement agencies and the private sector will be represented. We look forward to federal support of such an initiative.

Mr. Chairman, any viable counter-terrorism program must stress prevention and response equally. And if, God forbid, New York City is struck again by terrorists or any other disaster, the Police Department will be prepared to respond immediately.

We have trained approximately 12,000 of our officers in more advanced chemical, biological, and radiological response to an attack involving weapons of mass destruction. We have also provided training to nearly all of our uniformed personnel in the new Citywide Incident Management System, or CIMS, adopted last year by New York City. The system provides a unified command structure that allows the Police Department to work seamlessly with other first responders, including the Fire Department, for any disaster.

We conduct daily exercises throughout the city in responding to a terrorist attack. This constant training and drilling paid off during the blackout of 2003, when the Police Department was mobilized to protect the city from looting and potential disorder. There were few arrests and disruptions were kept to a minimum.

As you know, while overall evacuation planning is the responsibility of the City's Office of Emergency Management, the Police Department would play a major role in such an event. One of our most important responsibilities would be to secure key sites and protect life and property during and after a major incident. We are fully prepared to do that.

On that note, I want to mention that earlier this week, we welcomed back the second half of the 300-plus officer contingent we sent to Mississippi and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Those officers took part in search and rescue operations and patrolled against looters. Along with the pride and satisfaction of a job well done, the Police Department will undoubtedly learn from that experience. And we have dispatched

another joint New York City police and fire team to Texas to assist there with Hurricane Rita.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to emphasize that all of our preparations come at a steep price: about \$180 million per year to maintain our daily counter-terrorism and intelligence activities. These are ongoing operational costs to defend the city. While the federal government provides vital assistance for training, equipment, and overtime, we still have huge expenses to cover.

Regrettably, the influx of federal support one would expect to flow to New York as a result of living in the cross-hairs has not been sufficient. The Police Department is defending New York's people, infrastructure and the nation's financial assets from another terrorist attack yet a large proportion of the federal homeland security funding still is not targeted to threat.

The federal government must invest realistically in protecting those areas the terrorists are likely to try to hit again. Along with a few other major cities, New York tops that list. Everything we know about Al Qaeda tells us this is true. It is a lesson from our history we simply cannot afford to ignore.